

Washington, D. C. 20520

State Dept. review completed

ACTION MEMORANDUM
S/S**CONFIDENTIAL**

June 7, 1982

TO: S - Ambassador Stoessel, Acting
THRU: P - Ambassador Eagleburger
FROM: LWG - Morris Draper
SUBJECT: Humanitarian Disaster Relief Program for Lebanon

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to undertake a Humanitarian Disaster Relief Program for Lebanon.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Peter McPherson responded quickly last night to our request for what might be done. We have consulted with AID's Disaster Relief people and Food for Peace Organization.

In a nutshell, once we or the Ambassador determine that Lebanon is a disaster area by virtue of the widespread fighting there, Dillon can immediately provide \$25 thousand as a cash contribution to an organization providing emergency disaster services such as the University of Beirut Hospital or ICRC. In addition, AID can immediately provide up to \$3 million through AID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Available for immediate use through AID's Food for Peace Office (FFP) is \$3 million in PL 480, Title II emergency reserves. FFP is examining possible diversions of food shipments on the high seas as well as drawing on stocks in other nearby countries.

Some U.S. assets readily available in OFDA's stockpile in Italy includes 50,000 feet of heavy duty, reinforced plastic sheeting (suitable for the construction of emergency shelter), 2,300 tents (8 people per tent), 25,000 blankets, generators, water purification equipment, and other emergency supplies deemed necessary. If U.S. military and flag aircraft cannot be flown into Beirut Airport, Middle Eastern Airlines has proved reliable during similar emergencies and should be considered again.

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Since AID has only these limited funds available, we will need Congressional assurances that AID funds will be replenished by an early appropriation to cover the \$25 million envisaged.

It will be imperative that we make clear our humanitarian assistance will go to any disaster victims, whether they are Palestinian or Lebanese. It will be important that there be a mix of agencies we might work with so that there is no seeming discrimination between Muslims and Christians.

OFDA has contacted the AID Mission in Lebanon and asked them to assess the situation and forward to AID Washington their needs. DOD has additional stocks and will work closely with AID/OFDA.

U.S. officials, Lebanese authorities, and international organizations (e.g., UN, ICRC) should be useful in providing an assessment of disaster needs. The American University of Beirut Hospital has acted as a coordinator for the needs of all hospitals in that area in the past and will be useful in this situation.

We will be dealing with serious needs. War casualties will be heavy, both those injured and displaced.

There is already a significant flight of displaced persons moving towards Beirut and its magnitude may reach several hundred thousand.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That you approve an announcement of Disaster Relief Program for Lebanon, ideally tomorrow, June 8, by the President's party in Europe, with an initial contribution of \$25 million (following discussions with the House and Senate leadership).

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

That you authorize us to begin informal consultations with Congress today.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Drafted: LWG:MDraper:cf
6/7/82 ext 26611

Clearances: NEA:DTSchneider AID:PPeterson AID/OFDA:Mr. Howell
H:PMoore NSC:Mr. McFarlane
DOD/OSD:Mr. West/FNelson
CIA:Mr. Ames

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